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**ARMOR ACTIVITY, WU-HAN MILITARY  
REGION, CHINA, NOVEMBER 1974**

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JULY 1975

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# **ARMOR ACTIVITY, WU-HAN MILITARY REGION, CHINA, NOVEMBER 1974**

## **ABSTRACT**

1. This report summarizes the major armor developments in the Wu-han Military Region (MR) observed on KEYHOLE photography of November 1974. A table shows the activity observed at the active armor installations in the MR during November. The report also contains a location map and two photographs.

## **INTRODUCTION**

2. During November 1974 several developments were observed within the armor forces deployed in the Wu-han MR (Figure 1). An overall increase of 50 percent was noted in the November armor count in comparison to the amount of armor observed [REDACTED]. Two probable armored regiments were newly identified at barracks areas under construction, and a probable armored regiment was observed in a training area. In addition, the possible headquarters for an armored division which is forming in the MR was identified. Table 1 lists the active armor installations in the Wu-han MR and the armor observed at each on photography of November 1974.

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## **BASIC DESCRIPTION**

3. [REDACTED] a probable armored regiment was identified at Mao-chi Army Barracks AL 1. Sixty-seven tanks and four M-1967 APCs were parked on the northern edge of the barracks area [REDACTED]. This was the first identification of armor at this installation [REDACTED], when five tanks were present. Initial construction of this barracks area was observed [REDACTED], and the installation was in a late stage of construction [REDACTED] when 73 tanks and three probable M-1967 APCs were present (Figure 2). A mixed AAA battery consisting of four 37mm AA guns and two ZPU-4s was also identified at Mao-chi. This mixed AAA battery has been observed almost exclusively with armored regiments in other military regions.

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4. A probable armored regiment was identified at Chia-hsien Army Barracks NW on [REDACTED]. A total of 59 tanks were observed in this barracks area on [REDACTED]. Initial construction of this area was observed [REDACTED], when eight tanks were present. This installation was in a mid-to-late stage of construction [REDACTED] when 60 tanks were present.

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5. A probable armored regiment was observed in Chueh-shan AAA Training Area AL 5 on [REDACTED]. Seventy-six tanks, 14 M-1967 APCs, and three armored vehicles, which were not present on 1 November, were involved in this exercise. The grouping and amount of armor permitted the identification of three tank battalions and a probable reconnaissance company in this exercise.

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Table 1. Armor Activity, Wu-han Military Region, China, November 1974 (Keyed to Figure 1)

Item	Installation Name BE Number Coordinates	Unit Size	Armor Count		Remarks
1	Shui-yeh Army Bks NE AL 1 [redacted] 36-08-37N 114-07-09E	Tank/assault gun regiment	23 tanks, 3 prob SU-76, 6 armored vehicles	30 tanks, 4 SU-76s	
2	Shang-chiu Army Bks AL 2 [redacted] 34-26-03N 115-38-49E	Prob school	2 prob type-59 tanks	2 prob tanks	
3	Chia-hsien Army Bks AL 1 [redacted] 34-04-00N 113-09-50E	Training area	None	None	Installation does not appear to permanently house an armor unit; rather, it appears to serve as a training facility
4	Chia-hsien Army Bks NW [redacted] 34-00-20N 113-11-00E	Prob armor regiment	59 tanks	60 tanks	
5	Ta-ying Army Bks AL 1 [redacted] 33-55-00N 112-52-30E	Unknown	Installation not covered	3 poss armored vehicles	
6	Pao-feng Army Bks AL 3 [redacted] 33-53-10N 112-59-40E	Poss tank battalion	Installation not covered	None	
7	Pao-feng Army Bks AL 4 [redacted] 33-52-30N 113-05-10E	Unknown	1 poss armored vehicle	5 poss armored vehicles	
8	Pao-feng Army Bks AL 2 [redacted] 33-49-50N 113-09-00E	Poss tank battalion	10 tanks	9 tanks	Tanks were parked in a civilian housing area 3.0 nm SE of barracks area
9	Shang-chuang Ar Bks/ Armor Tng Area AL 1 [redacted] 33-08-40N 113-26-30E	Training area	12 tanks, 1 armored vehicle	11 tanks, 6 prob tanks	Installation does not appear to permanently house an armor unit; rather, it appears to serve as a training facility
10	Chu-ma-tien Army Bks AL 1 [redacted] 32-55-50N 113-51-25E	Poss armored division hq	13 tanks	13 tanks	AAA regiment with 2 mixed AAA batteries is also housed at this installation
11	Chueh-shah Army Bks AL 2 [redacted] 32-48-59N 113-53-06E	Prob tank battalion	19 tanks	21 tanks	
12	Chueh-shan Army Bks AL 6 [redacted] 32-48-20N 113-47-20E	Unknown	None	None	Although no armor has been ob- served at this installation since [redacted] [redacted] track activity remained heavy throughout the area
13	Chueh-shan AAA Tng Area AL 5 [redacted] 32-47-05N 113-48-00E	Training area	None	76 tanks, 14 M-1967 APCs, 3 armored vehicles	Armor in this area on [redacted] was prob from the Ming-chiang Hq Inf Div and Ar Bks NW AL 1
14	Mao-chi Army Bks AL 1 [redacted] 32-31-55N 113-41-20E	Prob armored regiment	67 tanks, 4 M-1967 APCs	73 tanks, 3 prob M-1967 APCs	A mixed AAA battery was present on both [redacted]
15	Ming-chiang Ar Bks/ Armor Tng Area AL 4 [redacted] 32-30-20N 113-55-20E	Unknown	8 tanks	8 tanks	Tanks were parked approx 3.0 nm NE of the barracks area
16	Ming-chiang Hq Inf Div and Ar Bks NW AL 1 [redacted] 32-29-06N 114-00-50E	Prob armored regiment	38 tanks, 15 M-1967 APCs, 3 armored vehicles	None	Unit was probably training on [redacted] [redacted] at Chueh-shan AAA Tng Area AL 5
17	Hsin-yang Armd Div Hq and Inf Sch/Bks AL 1 [redacted] 32-08-01N 114-03-04E	School/repair facility	1 tank, 2 armored vehicles	3 tanks, 3 prob armored vehicles	

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6. The probable armored regiment training at Chueh-shan [ ] may have come from the Ming-chiang Headquarters Infantry Division and Army Barracks NW AL 1. [ ] 38 tanks, 15 M-1967 APCs, and three armored vehicles were observed at Ming-chiang. [ ] the day the exercise was in progress at Chueh-shan, no armor was observed at Ming-chiang. With the exception of Ming-chiang, no decrease in tanks was noted [ ] at any of the other armor installations in the area. While the count of armored vehicles other than tanks for Ming-chiang [ ] and Chueh-shan [ ] was almost identical, the 76 tanks observed at Chueh-shan [ ] were 38 more than the number of tanks which had been observed [ ] at Ming-chiang. However, the tank maintenance facility at Ming-chiang has vehicle/equipment storage buildings with at least 45 bays for tracked vehicles. This is more than enough to hold the additional 38 tanks which were observed with the unit at Chueh-shan [ ] [ ] In addition, construction of new barracks and additions to vehicle/equipment storage buildings has occurred at the Ming-chiang tank maintenance facility since mid-1973 (Figure 3), indicating that the tank/assault gun regiment previously reported at Ming-chiang is probably being upgraded to an armored regiment.

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7. A possible headquarters for the armored division which is forming in the Wu-han MR was identified at Chu-ma-tien Army Barracks AL 1. This barracks area is in a midstage of construction, and the types of buildings which have been completed indicate that the installation will house a headquarters or administration-type unit. The presence of 13 tanks and extensive vehicle/equipment storage buildings under construction indicates that the unit housed here will be armor associated. An AAA unit made up of six 6-gun batteries was also present within this installation. Four of these batteries consist of six 37mm AA guns, while two are mixed AAA batteries made up of four 37mm AA guns and two ZPU-4s each.

8. The artillery regiment for this armored division is at Chu-ma-tien Army Barracks AL 2. [ ] eighteen 85/100mm field guns, twelve 122mm howitzers, and ten probable mortars were observed at this installation, which is approximately 2 nautical miles west of Chu-ma-tien Army Barracks AL 1.

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9. Since mid-1973 the usual count of armor observed in the Wu-han MR has been approximately 220 armored vehicles. [ ] 287 armored vehicles were identified within the MR, and [ ] 347 armored vehicles were identified. These order-of-battle counts are significant increases in the amount of armor observed within the MR [ ]

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10. This increased count of armor was observed despite the poor interpretability of photography over some known armor installations. [ ] the Pao-feng/Ta-ying area was covered on oblique photography, making an accurate count of armor difficult. Previous coverage has indicated that an armored regiment is probably housed in the installations in this area.

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**REFERENCES**

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**MAP OR CHARTS**

DMA. Series 1, Sheet G-9, 3d edition, scale 1:1,000,000

**REQUIREMENT**

Project 120901NF

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